New Schemes to Boost Tourism

4738. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the new schemes to boost tourism in the country which have been introduced in the country during the last six months;

(b) the places of tourist interest where these new schemes are being implemented; and

(c) the new incentives or domestic tourists and foreign tourists that have been introduced in above period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) and (b) During the last six months a new draft National Tourism Policy, and an Eco-Tourism Policy and Guidelines, have been finalised and the Ministry is organising Buddha Mahotsava at Sarnath and Bodhgaya.

(c) The Government does not provide incentives to domestic and foreign tourists.

Special Fund to Develop Tourism Infrastructure

4739. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to create special fund to develop tourism infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details of the management of funds; and

(c) whether the National Tourism Development Policy will include foreign private participation in Indian Tourism Industry?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Council is proposed for the management of the funds.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Tourist Circuits in Orissa

4740. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist circuits set up in the State of Orissa.

(b) the steps taken to develop those tourist circuits during the last five years;

(c) the amount spent on the development of those tourist circuits;

(d) the specific plan formulated to develop tourism in Orissa during the Ninth Plan; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) Tourist Circuits identified in the State of Orissa are:—

1. Bhubaneshwar-Puri-Konark

2. Bhubaneshwar - Lalitgiri - Ratnagiri - Udayagiri - Kendraparha Chandbali - Bhadrak (Sun Temple)

3. Harishankar - Narusimhanath - Hirakud - Sambalpur - Vedvyas (Gandhamardhan Circuit).

4. Koraput - Araku - Valley - Nandapur - Gupteswar - Rayagada (Panchabati Circuit).

(b) and (c) Development of tourist circuits is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure on the basis of specific project proposals received from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and availability of funds. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 358.85 lakhs for the implementation of 14 projects in the identified circuits during the last five years.

(d) and (e) During the Ninth Plan Year 1997-98, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned an amount of Rs. 557.05 lakhs for the implementation of 28 projects in Orissa.

New Tourism Policy

4741. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to formulate a new tourism policy which aims at the development of natural health resorts, pilgrim centres and adventure tourism, as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 27th June, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof and in what manner Government propose to promote such a tourism policy;

(c) what was his Ministry earnings in foreign exchange during 1997-98 and the new target fixed for 1998-99 in foreign exchange earnings; and

(d) whether Centre was extending any grants in this regard to State Governments of Rajasthan and Orissa during the year 1998-99 and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The draft National Tourism Policy formulated by the Ministry of Tourism give thrust on the development of Natural Health Resorts, Pilgrim Centres and Adventure Tourism by providing assistance to State Governments and encouraging the private sector to create tourism facilities.

(c) The foreign exchange earning from tourism during 1997-98 is estimated to be Rs. 11051.43 crores. As per the Working Group Report the projected foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 1998-99 is Rs. 15148.00 crores.

(d) The Union Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from the respective States. For the year 1989—99 the detailed proposals have not been received from Rajasthan and Orissa Tourism.

Tourist Project in Coastal Zones

4742. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has informed the Central Government that there is inordinate delay in sanctioning the tourist projects in coastal zones;

(b) whether any State Government has requested Government to transfer the authority to sanction tourists projects in coastal zones to the State Governments; and

(c) if so, what decision has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Environment has not agree to the proposal.

गुजरात और मध्य प्रदेश में पर्यटन केन्द्रों का आधुनिकीकरण और विस्तार

4743. श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला: क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या चालू वित्त वर्ष और पंचवर्षीय योजनावधि के दौरान देश में कतिपय केन्द्रों के आधुनिकीकरण और विस्तार की कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो गुजरात और मध्य प्रदेश सहित उसका राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या राज्य सरकारों से इस संबंध में कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुये हैं; और

(घ) क्या विश्व बैंक की सहायता से राज्यों में नए होटल/पर्यटक यात्री निवास खोलने की कोई योजना है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री मदन लाल खुराना): (क) से (ग) पर्यटन मंत्रालय प्रत्येक वर्ष, पर्यटक परिसरों, पर्यटक स्वागत केन्द्रों वाले निवासों,